

A Regular Meeting of the Otsego City Commission was held on Monday, February 20, 2023.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Withee at 7:00 p.m. with the following Commissioners present: Lauri Krueger, Jason Smith, Chuck Moore, and Wayne Rayburn. Absent: None. Also present: City Manager, Aaron Mitchell; Fire Chief, Brandon Weber; and WWTP Supervisor, Luke Keyzer.

The audience joined the Commission in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The February 6, 2023, Minutes were approved as submitted.

Commissioner Krueger moved to add the following item under Resolutions - CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 2023-06 – A RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR 123NET’S APPLICATION FOR THE REALIZING OPPORTUNITIES WITH BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE NETWORKS (ROBIN) GRANT PROGRAM TOWARD THE ALLEGAN COUNTY BROADBAND WIRED INFRASTRUCTURE EXPANSION PROJECT, seconded by Commission Moore. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**REMARKS FROM THE AUDIENCE REGARDING AGENDA ITEMS**

Nick Breedveld, 1101 Barton – he asked if copies of the Housing Study information would be available. City Manager Mitchell stated that the Housing Study document and the presentation would be on the City’s website.

**I. PRESENTATIONS:**

**A. COUNTY COMMISSIONER GALE DUGAN UPDATE**

County Commissioner Dugan gave an update on current Allegan County activities. He answered questions of the audience and the Commission.

**B. HOUSING STUDY PRESENTATION – RYAN KILPATRICK, FLYWHEEL**

Mr. Ryan Kilpatrick of Flywheel Consulting was in attendance and gave a presentation of the findings of the recent Housing Study for the City of Otsego. He commented that there is a critical need for housing. Mr. Kilpatrick gave an overview of the current and future housing needs, based on the housing study.

**C. OTSEGO/PLAINWELL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ANNUAL UPDATE**

Executive Director, Jenny Boerman of the Otsego/Plainwell Chamber of Commerce gave a yearly update on the Chamber’s – membership, dues, events, and survey results. She thanked the City Commission for their continued support of the Chamber.

**II. PUBLIC HEARING:**

**III. PLANNING AND ZONING:**

**IV. ORDINANCES:**

**V. REQUESTS:**

**VI. AGREEMENTS:**

**A. CONSIDERATION OF AN AGREEMENT WITH CLARK TECHNOLOGIES –  
FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES – COMPUTER SERVER MAINTENANCE**

City Manager Mitchell explained that Clark Technologies has provided server maintenance for the City’s server for many years and they have proposed an official contract be in place. City Manager Mitchell suggested that in November 2024, that this service be an appointment by the City Commission for professional services. Commissioner Moore moved to authorize the execution of an agreement with Clark Technologies – for Professional Services – Computer Server Maintenance, seconded by Commissioner Smith. **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**B. CONSIDERATION OF A BID AMENDMENT WITH B&L EXCAVATING –  
ALLEGAN STREET SEWER PROJECT**

City Manager Mitchell explained that a change order was for the tie-in across the road, because there is a natural gas line where our water main needed to be placed, and additional permits are needed. City Manager Mitchell stated that the funds will be from the Sewer Fund. WWTP Supervisor Keyzer gave a brief update on the project and answered questions. Commissioner Krueger moved to approve the Bid Amendment with B&L Excavating for the Allegan Street Sewer Project, as presented, seconded by Commissioner Rayburn. **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**VII. RESOLUTIONS:**

**A. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 2023-06 – A RESOLUTION OF  
SUPPORT FOR 123NET’S APPLICATION FOR THE REALIZING OPPORTUNITIES  
WITH BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE NETWORKS (ROBIN) GRANT  
PROGRAM TOWARD THE ALLEGAN COUNTY BROADBAND WIRED  
INFRASTRUCTURE EXPANSION PROJECT**

Commissioner Krueger offered the following Resolution and moved for its adoption, supported by Commissioner Moore.

**CITY OF OTSEGO  
ALLEGAN COUNTY, MICHIGAN**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2023-06**

**RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR 123NET’S APPLICATION FOR THE REALIZING  
OPPORTUNITIES WITH BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE NETWORKS (ROBIN)  
GRANT PROGRAM TOWARD THE ALLEGAN COUNTY BROADBAND WIRED  
INFRASTRUCTURE EXPANSION PROJECT**

**WHEREAS**, the City of Otsego is located in Allegan County where over 12,000 homes and businesses do not have access to high-speed internet; and

**WHEREAS**, the digital divide is exacerbating the homework and learning gap for students without high-speed internet access at home; and educators are burdened with having to develop instruction for students both with and without high-speed internet at home; and

**WHEREAS**, businesses need the surrounding communities to have broadband internet to attract

employees and many residents need high-speed internet to be able to work from their homes; and

**WHEREAS**, many residents need high-speed internet for virtual medical appointments; and

**WHEREAS**, the points outlined above, in concert with many other known benefits of high-speed internet access which contribute to quality of life, demonstrate an urgent need for affordable, reliable high-speed internet access at homes and businesses; and

**WHEREAS**, Allegan County has entered into a Public Private Partnership Agreement with 123NET in support of building broadband infrastructure throughout Allegan County.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, we, as the duly elected City Commission support the ROBIN grant application from 123NET of Southfield, Michigan to secure funding toward the Allegan County Broadband Wired Infrastructure Expansion project.

YEAS: Commissioners: Stacey Withee, Chuck Moore, Jason Smith, Lauri Krueger,  
Wayne Rayburn.

NAYS: Commissioners: None.

ABSTAIN: Commissioners: None.

ABSENT: Commissioners: None.

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED.

## **VIII. APPOINTMENTS:**

### **A. CONSIDERATION OF THE APPOINTMENT OF LARRY ZUIDERVEEN TO THE BOARD OF REVIEW, TERM TO EXPIRE DECEMBER 31, 2023**

Commissioner Moore moved to confirm the Mayor's appointment of Larry Zuiderveen to the Board of Review, term to expire December 31, 2023, seconded by Commissioner Rayburn.  
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

## **IX. DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

### **MANAGER'S REPORT**

The City Manager gave updates on the following:

- Community Development
- School Resource Officer Sikkema presented with an award from Representative Matt Hall
- Library Staff visit to City Hall

### **COMMUNICATIONS**

None.

## **REMARKS FROM THE AUDIENCE**

None.

## **COMMISSIONER'S' COMMENTS**

Commissioner Smith – he thanked County Commissioner Dugan for his report and for answering questions. He thanked Ryan Kilpatrick of Flywheel for the information that he provided. He commented that he is excited to see the next steps. He thanked Executive Director Jenny Boerman for the presentation. He thanked the audience for attending and commented that the meeting was very informative.

Commissioner Krueger – she thanked the audience for attending. She commented that it is nice to have a large audience. She thanked City Manager Mitchell for the information regarding tax bills in the Workshop Meeting, as it was extremely helpful. She thanked Ryan Kilpatrick of Flywheel for his presentation. She stated that it was nice to have the study completed, as it illustrated the City's housing needs. She commended Executive Director Jenny Boerman for the great job she does at the Chamber. She wished everyone a "great week".

Commissioner Rayburn – he thanked County Commissioner Dugan for his updates, Ryan Kilpatrick of Flywheel for his Housing Study presentation, and Executive Director Jenny Boerman for her Chamber presentation. He asked everyone to be openminded throughout the meetings, as everyone is trying to understand. He commented that meetings should be attended as we can't convey all of the information to everyone. He commented that it was nice to see a large group in attendance and to see people engaged.

Commissioner Moore – he echoed the other Commissioner's comments. He thanked the audience for showing up and for participating in the conversations. He thanked City Manager Mitchell for the extra effort explaining the tax bill at the Workshop Meeting, and illustrating that this Commission does not spend all of the funds that are collected from taxes paid. He stated that the facts from the Housing Study were very interesting. He thanked Executive Director Jenny Boerman for her Chamber presentation and commented that he appreciates her.

Mayor Withee – she thanked the audience for attending. She announced that the next Millage Proposal Informational Meeting will take place on Saturday, March 4<sup>th</sup>, at 10:00 a.m., at the Fire Station.

The meeting was adjourned on a motion by Commissioner Krueger, seconded by Commissioner Smith. CARRIED – 8:00 p.m.

Angela M. Cronen, MMC  
City Clerk